

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-58 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (original) A method for caring for, especially cleaning of, dogs in a tub-like basin which accommodates the dog and has a perforated intermediate bottom as a standing area for the dog wherein according to the purpose of the treatment the basin is filled to such a level with water that at least the paws of a dog standing on the intermediate bottom are located in the water during the treatment, that an air supply system is acted upon with compressed air by a blower and air is blown into the water and distributed from a first branch of the air supply system arranged underneath the intermediate bottom through first air outflow openings, the pressure of said air being sufficient to remove dirt adhering to the paws by bubbling and without spraying, that after the cleaning phase the air pressure in the first branch, as long as it is immersed in the water, is maintained at least at a level which is sufficient for preventing dirt from penetrating into the air outflow openings, and that during a drying phase a second branch of the air supply system provided with at least one outlet opening for drying air is supplied with air.

Claims 2-58 (canceled).

59. (new) A device for caring for, especially cleaning dogs comprising a tub-like basin having a bottom and a side wall extending upwards from this bottom and comprising a perforated intermediate bottom arranged inside the space enclosed by the basin at a vertical distance from the basin edge, wherein underneath the intermediate bottom there is arranged a first branch of an air supply system connected to a

controllable blower which is provided with air outlet openings distributed uniformly over the base surface, which are directed laterally and/or downwards.

60. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein the air supply system comprises channels running in a horizontal plane with air outlet openings opening to both sides.

61. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein a manually guidable water hose is provided which can be supplied with rinsing water from the cleaning water located in the device via a dirt filter and a feed pump which can be switched on and off.

62. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein a heating device for heating the conveyed air is incorporated after the blower.

63. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein connected to the blower is a second branch of the air supply system which can be switched on and off separately, which has obliquely downwardly directed second air outlet openings arranged in the upper region of the inside of the side wall of the basin, wherein the section of the second branch of the air supply system having the second air outlet openings is arranged such that it is adjustable in height.

64. (new) The device according to claim 63, wherein the second branch has a manually guidable air hose which can be acted upon with air as desired.

65. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein a metering device to deliver an additive into the air flow is connected to the first branch of the air supply system.

66. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein the intermediate bottom is assigned a lifting device which is suitable for lifting the intermediate bottom from its base position associated with a cleaning phase into a position

associated with a drying phase and keeping it there for a while.

67. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein it is provided with a level sensor which is suitable for emitting a first signal when an adjustable maximum filling height is reached in the basin and emitting a second signal after leaving this maximum filling height as soon as the emptied state of the basin is reached, wherein for signal transmission the level sensor is connected to a control circuit which is suitable for controlling at least the blower, possibly the heating, the duration of the cleaning and drying phase and possibly the function of the feed pump for filling or emptying the basin according to signals obtained from the level sensor and from an adjustable time switch member.

68. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein the first branch of the air supply system is connected to the intermediate bottom at a distance from its underside.

69. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein lifting elements for the intermediate floor which can be moved synchronously vertically up and down by a central drive device are arranged in the substantially rectangular basin in plan view, in the four corners.

70. (new) The device according to claim 59, wherein the intermediate bottom with the part of the air supply system having the air outlet openings associated with it and possibly with a lifting device used for its vertical motion is arranged as a removable unit in the basin.